

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/692,101	HONDA, KANAKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Barry Choobin	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/27/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-35.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment file on January 27, 2006 is acknowledged.

Currently claims 1-35 are pending.

Claims 1-27, 33 and 35 were previously allowed.

Now claims 28-32 and 34 are in condition for allowance.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

As to independent claims 1, 28 and 35, the closest prior art of Panter alone or in combination with other prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest an apparatus/method as claimed in independent claims 1, 28 and 35. In particular the key distinction between the closest prior art and the instant claimed invention is that the closest prior art does not rely upon a parameter integration section for integrating the first parameter assigned to the pixels on a per pixel basis, and for assigning a second parameter to the pixels, the second parameter being a result of integration of the first parameter, in combination with other elements of independent claims 1, 28 and 35.

As to independent claims 27, the closest prior art of Panter alone or in combination with other prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest an apparatus as claimed in independent claim 27. In particular the key distinction between the closest prior art and the instant claimed invention is that the closest prior art does not rely upon assignment of first parameter produced from the detection information to the pixels located un an area which is set in the detection space on the basis of the accuracy of detection information pertaining to the sensor section provided in the selected pixel and

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on the basis of the position of the selected pixel, in combination with other elements of independent claim 27.

As to claim 29, the closest prior art of Panter alone or in combination with other prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest an apparatus as claimed in independent claim 29. In particular the key distinction between the closest prior art and the instant claimed invention is that the closest prior art does not rely upon a first reliability storage section that stores predetermined first reliability of the first parameter assigned to each of the pixels; and a weighting section assigns a weight to the first parameter assigned to each pixel in accordance with the first reliability and that assigns the weighted first parameter to the pixel, in combination with other elements of independent claim 29.

As to claim 30, the closest prior art of Panter alone or in combination with other prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest an apparatus as claimed in independent claim 30. In particular the key distinction between the closest prior art and the instant claimed invention is that the closest prior art does not rely upon a control information generation section that generates control information pertaining to the object situated in the detection space, from the given information; and a processing execution section that performs processing using the control information, wherein the control information is formed from a parameter acceptable to the processing execution section.

As to claims 31 and 32, the closest prior art of Panter alone or in combination with other prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest an apparatus as claimed in independent claims 31 and 32. In particular the key distinction between the closest prior art and the instant claimed invention is that the closest prior art does not rely upon a

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reliability section that sets the reliability of the sensor section provided in one of plurality of subdivisions formed by dividing the section space.

As to claims 33 and 34, the closest prior art of Panter alone or in combination with other prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest an apparatus as claimed in independent claims 33 and 34. In particular the key distinction between the closest prior art and the instant claimed invention is that the closest prior art does not rely upon a determining section that determines whether or not the adaptive mask is performed, on the basis of the result of integration of the degree of reliability of the sensor section performed in each subdivisions.

Accordingly, now claims 1-35 are allowed.

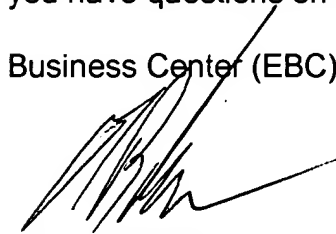
CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry Choobin whose telephone number is 571-272-7447. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM to 18:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MATTHEW BELLA can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Choobin', is written over the text of the Electronic Business Center (EBC) contact information.

Barry Choobin
2/20/06